

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 133721

ORIGIN VO-03

INFO OCT-01 SCA-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 COME-00 CIAE-00

FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 EB-07 DODE-00 CG-00

DOTE-00 L-03 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 SCS-03 NSC-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133721

VISAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS OCLR UR US (S/S MARGELAN)

SUBJECT: CREW LIST VISA PROBLEMS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 7964 (NOTAL) (B) MOSCOW 7482, (C) STATE

122308 (NOTAL) (D) STATE 128031

1. AS EMBASSY WILL RECALL, DEPARTMENT CABLED A VISAS THIRTEEN MESSAGE REGARDING "MARGELAN" ON MAY 26 (REF C), AND EMBASSY RESPONDED THE FOLLOWING DAY (REF B). EMBASSY SUBSEQUENTLY SENT IBEX TELEGRAM ON JUNE 6. UPON RECEIPT OF EMBASSY'S IBEX MESSAGE (REF A), DEPT (VO) ASCERTAINED FROM COAST GUARD THAT "MARGELAN" ARRIVED AT BALTIMORE, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 133721

7:35 A.M., JUNE 7, HAVING TRAVELED COASTWIDE, SINCE ITS ARRIVAL AT HOUSTON, VIA SAVANNAH AND NEW ORLEANS. IT WAS ALSO LEARNED THAT BALTIMORE WOULD BE "MARGELAN'S" LAST PORT OF CALL BEFORE GOING FOREIGN, HAVING CANCELED ITS CALL AT NEW YORK.

2. IN VIEW "MARGELAN'S" STAY IN U.S. WATERS SINCE MAY 25

WITHOUT SHORE LEAVE FOR CREW, AND SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOREIGN MORNING OF JUNE 8, VO AND EUR/SOV RECOMMENDED TO INS THAT VISA BE VALID ON ENTRY AT BALTIMORE. LEO SOTO, INS CENTRAL OFFICE ACCEPTED DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION, AND CALLED INS BALTIMORE FOR PURPOSES OF REINSPECTION AND SHORE

LEAVE FOR "MARGELAN'S" CREW.

3. FOREGOING IS EXAMPLE OF ONE OF PROBLEMS CITED PARAGRAPH 4 REF D, I.E. INACCURATE OR DELAYED INFORMATION ON ITINERARY OF SOVIET SHIP. IN THIS CASE SHIP ARRIVED AT FIRST US PORT OF CALL BEFORE CREW LIST VISA HAD BEEN APPLIED FOR. MOREOVER, DATE OF SHIP'S ARRIVAL AT FIRST US PORT OF CALL GIVEN IN VISA APPLICATION (JUNE 12) WAS MUCH LATER THAN ACTUAL DATE ON WHICH SHIP ARRIVED (MAY 25). CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF DELAYED APPLICATION FOR VISA AND INACCURATE INFORMATION IN APPLICATION WAS THAT IBEX MESSAGE DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL SHIP WAS NEAR END OF ITS US ITINERARY. THERE HAVE BEEN CASES WHERE SOVIET SHIPS ARRIVED AND DEPARTED US WATERS BEFORE US AUTHORITIES RECEIVED IBEX MESSAGE.

4. IBEX SYSTEM WAS SET UP BY USG TO FACILITATE SHORE-LEAVE OF SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPS' CREWS, BUT SITUATIONS SUCH AS THAT OF THE "MARGELAN" DEMONSTRATE THAT BEST EFFORTS OF POSTS AND US AUTHORITIES ARE OF NO AVAIL IF SOVIETS DO NOT PROVIDE TIMELY AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON SHIPS' CREWS AND ITINERARIES. LIKEWISE IBEX SYSTEM IS OF NO USE IN INSTANCES WHERE SHIPS' MASTERS OR OWNERS DO NOT TAKE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 133721

TROUBLE TO APPLY FOR CREW LIST VISA. AS STATED REF D, IN CASES WHERE CREWLIST VISAS OR IBEX TELEGRAMS ARE NOT AT HAND, MASTER AND ONE OR TWO OTHERS ARE PAROLLED ASHORE TO DO SHIP'S BUSINESS. WE WONDER WHETHER IN SOME CASES SOVIET CAPTAINS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN ALLOWING THEIR CREWS TO GO ASHORE IN US PORTS.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD USE MATERIAL IN THIS CABLE AS PART OF ITS PRESENTATION TO SOVIETS REQUESTED IN REF D. ANY ADDITIONAL LIGHT WHICH POSTS CAN SHED ON THESE PROBLEMS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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